Regulation of Infant Foods

1916. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to repeal the Infant Milk substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the specific reasons for not incorporating the provisions of the Act, particularly relating to provisions to promote and protect breastfeeding in the new intergrated food laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The objective of formulating a modern Food Safety and Standard Bill, 2005, is to do away with the multiplicity of existing food laws and regulations and enforcement agencies and to bring them under single law and authority proposed to be set up under this Bill. Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (IMS Act, 1992) is one of the Food Acts/Orders which are proposed to be repealed/amended on the enactment of the proposed Bill.

A Group of Ministers constituted by the Government to propose legislative and other changes required for preparing a modern Integrated Food Law, is presently considering the issue of the proposed repeal/amendment of Food Acts/Orders, including IMS Act, 1992.

Taking off of FPIs

1917. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite India being a very significant producer of a large number of agricultural items, the country lags behind Philippines and China, as far as food processing industries are concerned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the food processing sector constitutes 14 per cent of the manufacturing GDP and employs 13 million people directly and more than that number, indirectly;

(c) whether the high cost structure needs urgent tackling for the food processing to take off; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to an estimate, share of FPI sector in manufacturing GDP was about 15.5% in 2001-02. Food processing industry is growing at a rate which generates 2.5 lakh jobs every year. As most of food processing industries are in the unorganized sector, the information about actual number of persons provided employment in the FPI sector is not Centrally maintained.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to reduce high cost of processed food, during the recent years. Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty on fruit and vegetable products and cold chain has been abolished. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for promotin of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexance used in edible oil has been reduced from 32% to 16%. Customs duty on refrigerated vans has been reduced from 20% to 10%.

New FPIs set up *vis-a-vis* employment generation

†1918. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to be spent on the food processing industries set up and functioning in various States of the country under the Tenth Five Year Plan, together with the State-wise, year-wise amount spent thereon, so far during the last three years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.